ral sector stations in Eastern Region in favour of States/UTs in the Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern and North Eastern Regions to the extent possible depending on the requirement of States/UTs and availability of transmission lines.

(ii) A Committee headed by Member (PS), Central Electricity Authority has recommended an Action Plan for maximising export of surplus power from Eastern Region (ER) to neighboring regions. The Committee has recommended long term allocation of surplus power of ER to the neighboring regions with payment of fixed charges in proportion to capacity allocation and energy charges payable in proportion to actual energy drawal with a view to motivate drawee States to maintain their drawal on continuous basis. HVDC back to back station at Sasaram connecting Eastern with Northern Region is expected to be commissioned by March, 2002 and would enable export of additional power from the region.

(c) The Government has approved the Sasaram HVDC back to back link between Eastern and Northern Regions at an estimated cost of Rs. 671.56 crores, based on 3rd quarter of 1997 price level. The process of award for transmission line as well as HVDC station has been initiated. The project is scheduled to be completed in December, 2001.

(d)-The feasibility report for Rourkele—Raipur 400 KV D/C line, for interconnecting Eastern and Western Regions, has been submitted to CBA for techno economic clearance. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 298 Crores.

**Electricity generation tax in Himachal Pradesh**

2590. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to levy Electricity generation tax in Himachal Pradesh are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor with effective date of pendency;

(c) whether Government propose to take some decision on these pending proposals enabling the State Government to increaseits financial resources as sug gested by Shri C. Rangarajan Expert Committee constituted on 31st August, 1992; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Himachal Pradesh Electricity (Tax on generation) Bill, 1995 passed by the Government of H.P. was received by the Union Government on 20-11-1995 for presidential assent. As the Government of Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana had opposed the levy of such a tax by the State of Himachal Pradesh, it was decided to' withhold the Presidential assent to the Bill. The Government of India is considering the enactment of a legislation for the levy of a cess on generation of electricity, the proceeds of which will be shared with the State Governments.

**New Power Project in North Cachar Hills district in Assam**

2591. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for setting up a power project in Lower Kopili River of North Cachar Hills district in the State of Assam?